

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 AGR-05 OES-03 AID-05 /070 W

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R 100250Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 619

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS

DIA AFOSI WASHDC

CINCPAC HON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 2298

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: STATUS OF THE ISOC-DEVELOPED "AW PAW PAW" PROGRAM

REF: BANGKOK A-312

SUMMARY:

THE ISOC-SPONSORED "AW PAW PAW" (APP) (VOLUNTEERS FOR SELF DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION) CI PROGRAM ACHIEVED THE STATUS OF AN NATIONALLY- APPROVED CI PROGRAM ON JANUARY 23,1975 AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER WITH CABINET APPROVAL SIGNED THE SPONSORING NATIONAL DIRECTIVE. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM IS DIRECTLY IN THE HANDS OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET WITH GENERAL KRIT SIWARA NAMED THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR. THE APP CONCEPT CALLS FOR A CONSOLIDATION OF ALL PRESENT VILLAGE ORIENTED PARA-MILITARY PROGRAMS UNDER ONE PROGRAM UMBRELLA. TO ENSURE RTG MINISTRY AND DEPARTMENT COORINATION, A NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED COMPOSED OF SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL AGENCIES HAVING RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRO-  
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GRAMS IN CI. IF SUPPORTED BY THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER AND IF

PROPERLY IMPLEMENTED, APP CAN FOCUS LONG OVERDUE RG SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL. AN ECHELON OF APP COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTERS WILL BE ESTABLISHED FROM NATIONAL TO DISTRICT LEVELS UTILIZING ISOC PERSONNEL AND (EXCEPT IN BANGKOK) ISOC OFFICES. MUBAN TEAMS OPERATING AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL COMPOSED OF FOUR SECTIONS: SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT, SERVICES AND POLITICAL ARE THE KEY OPERATING ELEMENTS IN THE PROGRAM. THESE TEAMS ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE VILLAGES WITH THEIR OWN SECURITY THROUGH THE TRAINING AND ARMING OF VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS, PROVIDE VILLAGE SELF-DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE PROJECTS AND PROMOTE THE EXPANSION AND STRENGTHENING OF VILLAGE AND TAMBOL SELF GOVERNMENT. THE SEATO ORGANIZATION, THE U.K., NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA ARE INTERESTED IN PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE PROGRAM. THE MISSION CONSIDERS THE NEW ENDEAVOR AS POTENTIALLY THE MOST EFFECTIVE RTG CI PLAN AND PROGRAM MOUNTED TO DATE AND WILL SUPPORT IT AS RESOURCES ALLOW. END SUMMARY.

1. THE INTERNAL SECURITY OPERATIONS COMMAND (ISOC) WITH ITS CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL SAIYUT KERDPHOL LEADING THE WAY, HAS SUCCEEDED IN ELEVATION THE "AW PAW PAW" (APP) PROGRAM (THAI ACRONYM FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR SELF DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION) TO THE LEVEL OF A NATIONALLY APPROVED COUNTER-INSURGENCY PROGRAM AND ORGANIZATION.

2. PRIME MINISTER SANYA DHAMMASAK SIGNED THE NATIONAL APP DIRECTIVE ON JANUARY 23, 1975 AFTER IT HAD RECEIVED CABINET AND NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVAL. THE DIRECTIVE PLACES THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROGRAM IN THE HANDS OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE CABINET WITH THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AS THE EXECUTIVE CONTROLLING AGENCY. GENERAL KRIT SIWARA HAS BEEN NAMED THE NATIONAL APP DIRECTOR AND GENERAL SAIYUT THE DEPUTY NATIONAL DIRECTOR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL APP STEERING COMMITTEE.

3. THE CONCEPT REPRESENTS A LONG-REQUIRED RTG ACTION TO CONSOLIDATE ALL OF THE PRESENT VILLAGE-ORIENTED PARAMILITARY PROGRAMS UNDER ONE NATIONALLY-APPROVED PROGRAM. PAST FAILURES OF RTG CI PLANS AND OPERATIONS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED BASICALLY TO LACK OF INTEREST IN AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR CI AT SENIOR LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT EXACERBATED BY THE CHRONIC INABILITY OF IN-CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPENDENT GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS TO COOPERATE IN IMPLEMENTING CI PROGRAMS. IN AN ATTEMPT TO OVERCOME THESE BASIC FLAWS IN COMMAND, CONTROL AND COORDINATION OF CI, THE NATIONAL APP PROGRAM HAS BEEN MADE THE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET, WITH THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AS THE EXECUTIVE CONTROLLING AGENCY. IN ORDER TO ENSURE REQUIRED COORDINATION, AN APP STEERING COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED COMPOSED OF SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL RTG

MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS HAVING RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROGRAMS IN CI. THE STEERING COMMITTEE IS TO ACT AS THE COORDINATING AGENCY TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE NATIONAL APP PROGRAM REACHES ITS OBJECTIVES.

4. 4. AN ECHELON OF APP COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTERS WILL BE ESTABLISHED FROM NATIONAL TO DISTRICT LEVELS, UTILIZING ISOC PERSONNEL AND (EXCEPT IN BANGKOK) ISOC OFFICES. THE UPCOUNTRY APP CENTERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING, TRAINING AND SUPPORT IF APP PROJECTS IN THEIR GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITIES WITH CLOSE AND CONTINUING COORDINATION BETWEEN CENTERS AUTHORIZED AND MANDATORY.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

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R 100250Z FEB 75

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5. THE MUBAN (VILLAGE) TEAMS, THE OPERATING KEYS TO THE SUCCESS OF THE APP PROGRAM, WILL WORK AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DISTRICT CHIEFS AND THE TAMBOL COUNCILS (A TAMBOL IS A THAI ADMINISTRATIVE DESIGNATION OF A CLUSTER OF VILLAGES). THE MUBAN TEAMS WILL OPERATE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE VILLAGE HEADMEN (PUYAIBANS) AND WILL CONSIST OF FOUR SECTIONS. EACH SECTION TO BE LED BY A LOCALLY-ELECTED ASSISTANT HEADMAN: SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT, SERVICES AND POLITICAL.

(1) SECURITY SECTION--COMPOSED ARMED AND TRAINED UNPAID VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS INTEGRATED WITH AND SUPPORTED BY THE EXPANDED AND REORGANIZED VOLUNTEER DEFENSE CORPS ORGANIZATION (VD:). ROYAL THAI ARMY OFFICER AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL WILL PROVIDE CADRE FOR THE VDC AND TRIN BOTH THE VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS AND VDC UNITS. RTA PARTICIPATION IN THE SECURITY ARM OF THE APP PROGRAM IS OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE. PROFESSIONAL MILITARY CONTROL OF THOUSANDS OF WEAPONS ISSUED TO VILLAGERS IS MANDATORY IF THE RTG IS TO AVOID PLACING "UNGUARDED" WEAPONS IN GEOGRAPHIC AREAS WHERE THE CT ARE MOST ACTIVE. ALSO, IF ARMED VILLAGERS ARE TO COMPETE WITH WELL-TRAINED CT FORCES THEY MUST HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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THE BENEFITS OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING, DISCIPLINE, COMMAND, CONTROL AND SUPPORT TO INCLUDE MODERN ARMAMENT AND REQUIRED FIRE POWER. MAP SUPPORT TO THE VDC REORGANIZATION PROGRAM HAS BEEN MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR RTA SUPPORT TO AND INTEREST IN BOTH THE VDC AND APP PROGRAMS.

(2) THE DEVELOPMENT SECTION WILL CONSIST OF LOCAL SKILLED VILLAGERS AND INCORPORATE THEIR ABILITIES AND CRAFTS INTO LOCALLY-DESIGNED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING TRAINING IN DEVELOPMENT TECHNIQUES, ALL DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE SKILLS OF THE VILLAGER AND THE ECONOMY OF THE VILLAGE. STRESS WILL BE PLACED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AND IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS AND TECHNIQUES.

(3) THE SERVICE SECTION WOULD EMPLOY AND TRAIN VILLAGERS IN: NUTRITION; HEALTH; AND SANITATION; FAMILY PLANNING AND MIDWIFERY; EDUCATION; ADULT, YOUTH AND GROUP ACTIVITIES; ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF COOPERATIVES; DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGE COTTAGE INDUSTRIES, ETC.

(4) THE POLITICAL SECTION WILL HAVE THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITY OF EDUCATING THE VILLAGER IN THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES ENTAILED IN LOCAL VILLAGE SELF-GOVERNMENT. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES AT THE MUBAN AND TAMBOL LEVELS AND ENCOURAGE VILLAGER PARTICIPATION IN SUCH GOVERNMENT.

6. COMMENT: IF PROPERLY IMPLEMENTED, APP WILL REPRESENT A MAJOR SHIFT IN RTG ATTENTION TO THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND SECURITY PROBLEMS OF THE RURAL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY THE VILLAGES WHICH ARE THE PRIME TARGETS OF THE CPT/MAOIST-INFLUENCED INSURGENCY. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE NEW GOVERNMENT. IF IT LACKS STRONG LEADERSHIP AND PROVES TO BE INDIFFERENT TO THE INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION IT WILL NOT SHIFT SEIZABLE RTG RESOURCES TO UP-COUNTRY AREAS. AS OF NOW, APP REMAINS ONLY A PLAN WITH MANY POTENTIAL PITFALLS IN THE PATH OF IM-

PLEMENTATION. OTHER OBSTACLES TO SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM INCLUDE:

(A) THE CONTINUED LETHARGY OF THE RTG BUREAUCRACY IN THE FACE OF THE INTERNL SECURITY THREAT POSED BY THE INSURGENCY.  
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(B) THE TRADITIONAL INABILITY OF RTG MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS TO COOPERATE ADEQUATELY ON JOINT PROGRAMS EVEN WHEN THESE ARE FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE PURPOSES.

7. SO FAR, THE MISSION HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE INITIATIVE AND DETERMINATION SHOWN BY THE OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER, GENERAL KRIT SIWARA, GENERAL SAIYUT, AND THE CABINET AND NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL IN WORKING TO DEVELOP THIS NATIONAL PLAND AND ORGANIZATION TO MEET THE MOUNTING INSURGENCY THREAT. WE CONSIDER OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE THE INTEREST BEING DEMONSTRATED IN APP BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA . LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THESE THREE ARE PREPARED TO ENCOURAGE THEIR HOME GOVERNMENTS TO RESPOND TO RTG REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT FOR APP. THEIR INTENTION IS TO SUPPORT APP OUTSIDE OF THE SEATO FRAMEWORK BY WORKING DIRECTLY WITH INDIVIDUAL RTG MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS. THE SEATO ORGANIZATION ITSELF IS PREPARED TO HELP APP WITH PERSONNEL AND FUNDS AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A TRAINING FILM, TRAINING AIDS, AND A HUMAN RELATIONS COURSE FOR THE PROGRAM. IN SUMMARY, THE "AW PAW PAW" PROGRAM REPRESENTS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE, VIABLE AND ON-TARGET CI EFFORT MOUNTED TO DATE BY THE RTG. WE INTEND TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM AS MISSION CAPABILITIES PERMIT.  
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